

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 2007-6

Construction Documents Prepared by Registered Design Professionals for One & Two Family Dwelling Residential Buildings

Purpose: The purpose of this Administrative Order is to establish policy guidelines as to when structural design drawings and/or calculations are required to be submitted by a design professional as part of a residential building permit project. Design drawings containing structural details, or information that is not addressed in the International Residential Code in effect at the time of permit application shall be prepared by and signed and sealed by a design professional registered within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Calculations, computations, stress diagrams and other essential data are not required to be submitted, unless requested by the Director of Code Compliance or the Code Official.

Justification: This Administrative Order is based on the premise that structural design is beyond the capabilities of owners, builders or unlicensed designers. Subsequently, the structural conditions listed and described below are required to be prepared by a design professional. This list should not be misconstrued as a complete list that covers all structural conditions that may require signed and sealed design drawings:

1. Steel beams, steel columns and support for steel beams in residential structures.
2. Beam supports, columns and column footings which support concentrated loads at any point;
3. Pre-engineered and prefabricated structural glue-laminated wood beams and members (for example; LVL, Glue-Lam, Parallam, Microlam, Gang-Lam, Versalam and other approved pre-engineered products);
4. Pre-engineered and prefabricated roof and floor trusses;
5. Field assembled composite beams which have more than two components of dimensional lumber with steel or plywood, and their support columns;
6. Concrete lintels that have concentrated loads or span more than 4 feet;
7. Repairs or alterations to pre-engineered components and assemblies;
8. Heavy timber construction with sawn or glue laminated members; and
9. Any other pre-engineered structural component.

Issued by:



Donald C. Tracy
Director of Code Compliance

Effective date: 1-2-08